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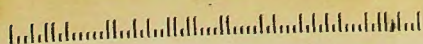
Winter 2003

SC Agricultural Education Magazine



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Cover Photo:
Planting Time
Clark Burrows, Sumter County Farmer
Photo by John W. Parris

South Carolina Agricultural Education Participants Earn National Recognition

A number of participants in South Carolina's Agricultural Education Programs have received impressive national recognition in recent months.

Sharing the national spotlight is F. Clark Burrows of Sumter, SC, who was named the Outstanding Young Farmer Member in the Nation for 2002. Joining him is Jerry Pace of Britton's Neck, SC, who was named the Outstanding Young Farmer Advisor in the Nation and Billy Keels, an Agricultural Education Coordinator with Clemson University, who serves on two National Agricultural Education-related boards.

Retired agricultural educator Drefus Williams of Sumter, SC, was named National winner of the prestigious H.O. Sargent Award by the National FFA Organization.

Brian and Carrie Bolt of Anderson, SC, and David Nixon, agricultural education teacher at Crescent High School, excelled in American Farm Bureau competition.

Five South Carolinians were awarded the coveted Honorary American FFA Degree by the National FFA Organization.

Eight South Carolina FFA members were awarded the American FFA Degree at the 2002 National FFA Convention.

Two South Carolina FFA Teams placed in the top ten finals at the National FFA Convention. A York FFA member was National Runner-up in the Dairy Handlers Competition.

Seven FFA Chapters were recognized in the National FFA Chapter Awards Program at the National FFA Convention.

Congratulations to those who have received national recognition and brought honor to South Carolina's Agricultural Education Program and Clemson University.



John W. Parris
Executive Director,
Office of Public Affairs

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Sumter County Man Burrows is Nation's Outstanding Young Farmer Member



F Clark Burrows of Sumter, SC, was named the Outstanding Young Farmer Member in the Nation for 2002 by the National Young Farmer Educational Association. The award, presented at the Association's Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is determined by the member's success in farming and agricultural leadership.

Burrows farms in partnership with his brothers, Sammy and Rey. They own and operate the 2000 acre Triple C Farms in Sumter County, where they produce corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, wheat, and timber.

*"No-till planting is the way to go in farming today", he says.
"It eliminates a number of trips across the land, saving energy,
time, labor, money and soil."*

A member and past president of the Sumter County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter, Burrows is a past president of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. Previously named the Outstanding Young Farmer in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina, Burrows has won numerous crop production awards at the state level. He was named the top cotton and wheat producer in South Carolina at the

recent state conference of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

He is a member of the Sumter County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the Forestry Landowners Association and the Board of Directors of the Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Association which includes North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

He is recognized as an outstanding conservation farmer. No-till farming is among the conservation technologies he has helped implement in his farming operation. "No-till planting is the way to go in farming today," he says. "It eliminates a number of trips across the land, saving energy, time, labor, money and soil," he emphasizes.

An avid sportsman, Burrows is a member of Quail Unlimited, Doves Unlimited, the SC Waterfowl Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation. Under his leadership, Triple C Farms has joined with neighboring farms to enroll more than 7000 acres in Quality Deer Management Program.

His advisors are John Weathers, Stephen Sanderson and Jillian Shupenis, agricultural education teachers in Sumter, SC.

Pace is Nation's Outstanding Young Farmer Advisor



Jerry Pace, agricultural education teacher at Creek Bridge High School, Britton's Neck, SC, has been named the Outstanding Young Farmer Advisor in the nation by the National Young Farmer Education Association.

Pace has been the advisor to the Britton's Neck Young

Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter since 1974. He served on the Planning Committee for the 1995 National Young Farmer Institute. A graduate of Clemson University with a BS Degree in Agricultural Education and a MS Degree in Agricultural Economics, he taught at Britton's Neck High School from 1974-2002 and at Creek Bridge High School since 2002.

Williams Receives National FFA Diversity Award



Drefus Williams of Sumter, SC, a retired agricultural educator, received the prestigious National H.O. Sargent Award at the 2002 National FFA Convention. The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated superb leadership in the promotion of diversity in agricultural education and is co-sponsored by Monsanto in concert with the National FFA Organization.

Mr. Williams, a 1953 graduate of South Carolina State College (now University) is currently serving as a co-chairman of the South Carolina New Farmers of America (NFA) Museum Committee.

He spent most of his career at Manchester and Furman High Schools in Sumter County for a total of 43 years.

Mr. Williams has received the Honorary State FFA Degree, the Honorary American FFA Degree, and the "Teacher of Teachers" Award from the SC Agricultural Educators Association.

Bolts Excel in American Farm Bureau Competition



Brian and Carrie Bolt of Anderson, SC, were one of three runners-up in the "Excellence in Agriculture" Finals at the American Farm Bureau annual convention in Tampa, Florida. The award is designed to recognize young farmers and ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from an agricultural

operation, but who actively contribute and grow through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture. Participants were judged on their involvement in agriculture, their leadership ability and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations. The Bolts received a \$2000 savings bond.

Left: Brian, John Grady, and Carrie Bolt. Brian is the Executive Director of the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association.

Keels Serves On Two National Boards



Billy Keels, Florence, SC, an agricultural education coordinator with Clemson University, has been elected to the Executive Board of the National

Council on Agricultural Education and re-elected to the Board of Directors of the National Young Farmer Education Association.



Nixon Competes in American Farm Bureau Discussion Meet

David Nixon, Agricultural Education Teacher at Crescent High School, finished 16th in the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher "Discussion Meet" at the recent national convention. The Discussion Meet program simulates

a committee where active discussion and participation are expected. Participants are evaluated on their ability to exchange ideas and information on a predetermined topic.

Honorary American FFA Degree Recipients From SC

Five South Carolinians were awarded the prestigious Honorary American FFA Degree at the 2002 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. This is the highest award presented to friends and supporters of the FFA at the national level by the National FFA Organization.



Patrick Earle (left) with National FFA Vice President J.J. Jones and State Treasurer Grady Patterson.

The Honorable Grady L. Patterson, South Carolina State Treasurer and a former FFA member at Calhoun Falls High School, was presented the award at the State House in Columbia, during National FFA Week, February 19, 2003, by National FFA Vice President J.J. Jones.

W.Patrick Earle, agricultural education teacher at McBee High School, was also presented the award at the State House in Columbia, by Mr. Jones. Mr. Earle, Chairman of Clemson University's National Agricultural Alumni Board, is a former FFA member at McBee High School.

Don Boice, a Farm Loan Executive with the Pee Dee Farm Credit Association in Florence, SC was presented the award in ceremonies at the 2002 National FFA Convention.

Jack Cunningham, retired agricultural education teacher at Gilbert High School after 30 years of service, is a graduate of Clemson University with a degree in Agricultural Education.

Jimmie Loftis, a retired public relations executive with Gold Kist Cooperative. He now resides in Richmond, Virginia.



Don Boice with Amber Haughland, 2002 National FFA Vice President.



Jack Cunningham with Amber Haughland



Jimmie Loftis with Amber Haughland

SC FFA Chapters Recognized

Seven South Carolina FFA Chapters were recognized with Two Star Gold Awards in the National FFA Chapter Recognition Program at the National FFA Convention.

The Chapters recognized included Manning, Michael Haynes, advisor; Loris, Ben Hardee, advisor; McBee, Pat Earle, advisor; Lexington, Tommy Harmon, advisor; Central, Tim Maye and Ashli Young, advisors; Wagner-Salley, Allen Williams, advisor; and Aiken, Joe Wilson, advisor.



Some of the Palmetto Breakfast Participants at the National FFA Convention

South Carolinians Awarded American FFA Degree

Eight South Carolina FFA members were awarded the American FFA Degree at the 2002 National FFA Convention. This is the highest award available to FFA members at the national level.

Recipients of the prestigious award include Blake Berry, past State FFA President, Hillcrest Chapter; Ashley Granata, past State FFA Vice President, B.J. Skelton FFA Chapter; Lori Beth Rhodes, Manning Chapter, past State FFA Vice President; Michael Boatwright, Central Chapter, Derek Williams, past President, Anderson Chapter; Kevin Sox, Lexington Chapter; Tony Crimmins, Ridge Spring-Monetta Chapter, and Eric Hill, Abbeville Chapter, past State FFA Secretary.



Blake Berry (right) with National FFA Vice President Elio Chiarelli



Ashley Granata with Elio Chiarelli



Lori Beth Rhodes with Elio Chiarelli



Derek Williams (right) with Elio Chiarelli



Kevin Sox (right) with Elio Chiarelli



Tony Crimmins (right) with Elio Chiarelli



Michael Boatwright (right) with Elio Chiarelli



Eric Hill

Two Team Members Win Scholarships!

South Carolina FFA Teams Place Nationally



Carrie Covington (left), Pendleton High School Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA Advisor, with the Nationally-ranked FFA Dairy Evaluation Team Members Jessica Landreth, Laura Stipe, Emily Waggoner and Allison Waggoner.

Pendleton Dairy Cattle Evaluation Team Takes National Honors

The Pendleton High School FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation Team took National Gold Emblem Honors by placing ninth in the National Dairy Evaluation Finals held at the 75th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Team member Emily Waggoner was the Fifth High Individual Scorer and her sister, Allison, was the Seventh High Individual Scorer in the National Competition. Emily and Allison were each awarded a \$1000 college scholarship by the National FFA Organization. Other team members are Jessica Landreth and Laura Stipe. Carrie Covington is in her first year as the FFA Advisor at Pendleton High School. The Pendleton Team was awarded expense-paid trips to the Convention by the South Carolina FFA Association.



Forestry Team members Rowdy Harris (second from left) Joel Wash, Roman Fox and Brandon Long with Agricultural Education Teacher Joel Bickley (far left).

Batesburg-Leesville Forestry Team Takes National Honors

The Batesburg-Leesville High School FFA Forestry Team took National Gold Emblem Honors by placing eighth in the National FFA Forestry Finals held at the 2002 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.



Jesse Miskelly (left), York FFA member, National Runner-Up in the FFA Dairy Cattle Handlers Competition with Frank Sandifer, FFA Advisor at the Floyd D. Johnson Technology Center, York, SC.

SC Members In National FFA Talent Revue



Douglas McCormick, McBee FFA Chapter, performed in the National FFA Talent Revue. He sang a song he wrote entitled "I'm Proud to be in the FFA" at the evening session. He also performed at other sessions at the National Convention.



Rachel McLeod, McBee FFA Chapter, performed in the National FFA Talent Revue and at a number of other convention functions.

Awesome Opportunities

By Mike Haynes, State FFA President

Greetings

Hey South Carolina FFA Members! I hope you are having a terrific year. I want to thank you on behalf of the State Office Team for making the past nine months so memorable for each of us. It is hard to believe another year of the FFA will be wrapping up in a few months.

State FFA Convention

We hope you are planning to attend the 76th State FFA Convention scheduled June 4-6, 2003, on the beautiful Clemson University campus. We are confident it will end the FFA year on a "bang" for each one in attendance.

We have planned the first FFA Star Search program which is guaranteed to be filled with talent from throughout

the state. There will be many laughs as the State Officers will be playing the role as judges. Many other additions to the program will make it the funniest three days possible.

Washington Leadership Conference

A little more than a month after the convention, the new state officers will pile on a bus that, hopefully, you will be on to travel to Washington, DC, for a fun filled week at the Washington Leadership Conference. You will meet many new friends from across the state and nation, visit influential leaders and develop your leadership skills. It is truly an experience you will not want to miss.

I encourage you to be a part of both of these AWESOME EXPERIENCES! God Bless.



Alex Gleason

The SC State FFA Officer Team (left to right seated) Mike Haynes, President, Fort Mill, SC; Joshua Waters, Vice President, Gilbert, SC; with Carrie Trebil (standing left), Vice President, Manning, SC; Bryan Armstrong, Vice President, Gray Court, SC; Christopher Moss, Secretary, Walhalla, SC; and Nic Stratton, Vice President, Lexington, SC, along with Alex Gleason (inset), President of the Calhoun Falls FFA Chapter, served as the official voting delegates to the National Convention. Mike Haynes also served on the nominating committee to select the new National FFA Officer team.

National FFA Convention Photos



Pat Black (left), FFA Advisor at Branchville High School, moderated statewide broadcast on the Andy Thomas Radio show from the National Convention. Others who participated included Drefus Williams, Sumter, SC; Josh Waters, Bryan Armstrong, and Carrie Trebil.

(Bottom left) State FFA Vice President Carrie Trebil (left) at the SC FFA Exhibit in the Career Show.

(Bottom right) CLEMSON UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND LIFE SCIENCES EXHIBIT at the National FFA Convention Career Show. The exhibit was seen by more than 50,000 people.



You're Invited To

The SC FFA Leadership Center At North Myrtle Beach



Photo Courtesy of Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce

Every FFA member in South Carolina and their advisor are invited and encouraged to spend some time at the State FFA Leadership Center in North Myrtle Beach this summer.

Participants will have an opportunity to maneuver through a High Ropes Course located in the tree tops, walk on the beach, try their hand at archery or relax by the pool.

Representatives from Clemson University and other institutions will offer assistance in career planning.

A special Leadership Program will provide an opportunity for FFA members and advisors to share experiences and ideas to strengthen FFA chapters.

A new event will be AG OLYMPICS. Students will have an opportunity to participate in competitive activities to win a medal or a trophy.

The Center is also equipped with a swimming pool, gymnasium, putt-putt course, tennis course, fishing pier and more. There is plenty of free time to relax and enjoy a visit to the beach.

Participants will enjoy organized night-time opportunities, such as the Myrtle Beach Grand Prix, the Alabama Theater, Broadway at the Beach including a show at I-Max Theater, and time to cruise the shops, grab a snack, play a round of putt-putt or visit the Aquarium.

For scheduling information contact Billy Keels at (843) 662-3526 ext 253. The Center is also available for other educational and church groups. Visit the website at www.ffasc.org for more details.

Myrtle Beach FFA Golf Tournament



Carrie Trebil (left), State FFA Vice President, Manning, SC; with Jennifer Perkins, President, Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter; Harry Dubose, Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA Advisor at Carolina Forest High School, Myrtle Beach, SC; Troy Bowermaster, Vice President of the Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter; and Nic Stratton, State FFA Vice President, Lexington, SC, at the Myrtlewood Golf and Country Club. The tournament was held February 1, 2003 at the Myrtlewood Golf and Country Club in Myrtle Beach, SC. State legislators, other government officials, school administrators and faculty, parents, sponsors and golf industry representatives participated in the tournament. The next tournament is scheduled January 31, 2004.

Making A Comeback

AG Education offered in Barnwell for first time in 15 years

In addition to getting the new ag education program going, instructor Mindy Sandifer is the FFA sponsor. She is also helping to form a Barnwell County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.

B

ARNWELL—Classes in FLORICULTURE,

wildlife, animal science and HORTICULTURE are all part of the new agriculture education curriculum taught at the Barnwell County Career Center.

It has been 15 years since Barnwell County students had the opportunity to take agriculture classes.

"This is not a farm class like the agriculture classes in the 1980's," instructor Mindy Sandifer said. "Personal growth and leadership skills are still taught. Activities and awards through the Future Farmers of America organization are also still an important part of today's agricultural education. Our course offerings prepare students to work in many different agriculture-related industries—wholesale and retail nurseries, florist and floral supply businesses, wholesale and retail sales of products needed by farmers as well as anyone who has plants and animals, landscape design and maintenance, golf course turf grass care, environmental jobs at Savannah River Site and, of course, jobs on the farms as well as in research jobs at places like Edisto Research and Education Center."

Students who hope one day to be game wardens, veterinarians or wildlife biologists can benefit from the wildlife and animal science classes, she said.

Twelfth-grade student Travis Sexton of Barnwell explained his enrollment in the

new agriculture class. "I like being outdoors. I want to learn more about forestry, and I hope to go to college next year, probably Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, and study forestry. One day I hope to be a park ranger," Sexton said.



Operating a nursery may be in the cards for Williston-Elko Eleventh-grader Brandon Thomas. "I heard this was a fun class. I like planting seeds and seeing them grow. I'm going to try to go to college next year, maybe Clemson, and study agriculture," he said. "I'd like to have a small nursery to raise and sell plants after I finish college."

Tommy Gladden, state leader of agriculture education in South Carolina (Clemson University), said one in five jobs today is related to the agricultural industry.

Excerpted from an article written by Laura G. Carlson and published in the Times and Democrat
Photo Credit: Laura G. Carlson/T&D



"Just in Barnwell County last year agricultural production contributed \$14.6 million in sales. "We are keenly aware of our role in providing a secure, safe food supply to this country and much of the world. The future of Barnwell County, as well as this state, is in the hands of the agriculture industry now as much as ever."

Gladden was instrumental in helping the Barnwell County Career Center add agriculture courses to its offering for the 2002-2003 school year.

"Once the program is established it basically supports itself. We have a new greenhouse in which we grow bedding plants for fall and spring plant sales. Students will do the hands-on work to grow plants as part of our course studies. They will market what they have grown to raise money for class activities and supplies needed. We also do several fund-raisers throughout the year which allow the students hands-on experiences as well as providing money for the program," Sandifer said.

In addition to getting the new ag education program going, Sandifer is also helping form a Barnwell Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.

Constantly Improving The SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Conference

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association provides many opportunities for its members. One such opportunity is the annual State Conference which has been held for over 55 years. Several generations of agriculturalists have fond memories of conferences past. The challenge to make each one better than the one before continually faces the association executive committee.

In January 2003, the Executive Board met that challenge with the conference in North Charleston. A tour and dinner at the Middleton Plantation offered an opportunity to experience South Carolina's low country history, enjoy good food with great entertainment by Doug McCormick, an FFA member from McBee, SC.

Guests were treated to plush rooms at the Embassy Suites Hotel adjoining the convention center. Each morning was greeted with a complimentary "made to order" breakfast. The hotel atrium was a great meeting place for friends and associates to enjoy fellowship.

A variety of seminars were held ranging from house plant care to the history of the rice culture in South Carolina. A highlight was the Agricultural Issues Panel moderated by Dr. Laurie Lawson, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Public Service and Agriculture at Clemson University.

State Commissioner of Agriculture Charles R. Sharpe addressed the Awards Luncheon, co-sponsored by the SC Beef Board, the SC Pork Board and the SC Peanut Board. A number of the association's award winners were recognized.

The Awards Banquet was addressed by Dr. John Kelly, Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture at Clemson University, and nationally recognized motivational speaker and humorist, Glenn Ward of Columbia, SC.

The Executive Board has announced the 56th Annual State Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Conference will be held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, January 9-10, 2004. Conference attendees will stay in the new four-star Radisson Hotel.

SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness
SC FFA Golf Tournament
Wednesday, June 4, 2003
Clemson University Walker Course



Les Galloway, President
Darlington, SC



John McGee, President-elect
Anderson, SC



John F. Cuttino,
Past President
Cope, SC



Edsel Williams,
Executive Treasurer
Britton's Neck, SC



Zach Bush, Vice President
Johnston, SC



Henry Herndon, Vice President
Bamberg, SC



Ricky McDaniel,
Vice President
Sumter, SC



Billy Keels,
Executive Director
Clemson University
Florence, SC

SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association News

SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association State Contest Winners for 2003

Glen Brooks, Crescent Chapter, Outstanding Young Farmer, sponsored by the SC Farm Credit Associations

Eric Benton, Central Chapter, Outstanding Agribusiness, sponsored by the Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, Marion, SC

Tim Maye, Central Chapter, Outstanding Chapter Advisor, sponsored by Learning Labs

Ricky McDaniel, Sumter Chapter, Irrigated Corn Production, sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International and Monsanto. Irrigated Soybean Production, sponsored by Archer Daniels Midland

Clark Burrows, Sumter Chapter, Cotton Production, sponsored by Monsanto and Delta Pineland, Wheat Production, sponsored by Mixon Seed Company

Brian Bolt, Crescent Chapter, Beef Cattle Production, sponsored by MoorMans, Inc.

Doug Stewart, Hickory Tavern Chapter, Dairy Farming, sponsored by Coburg Dairies

Jack Stewart, Darlington Chapter, Swine Production, sponsored by SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association

John F. Cuttino, Edisto Chapter, Forest Management, sponsored by SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association

Chris Ulmer, Orangeburg Chapter, Energy Efficiency, sponsored by Duke Energy Company, SCANA, Inc. and Progress Energy

George Ulmer, Orangeburg Chapter, Farm Service Center, sponsored by Dorchester Tractor and Southern Auto Parts

Jim Wooten, Sumter Chapter, Outstanding Chapter President, sponsored by Helena

Sumter County Chapter, Outstanding Chapter, sponsored by the Southern States Cooperative

John W. Parris, Pelion Chapter, Distinguished Service Award, sponsored by the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association



Glen Brooks of Calhoun Falls, SC was named the Outstanding Young Farmer in South Carolina by the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. Brooks, a graduate of Clemson University with a BS Degree in Animal Science, is a beef cattle farmer. He operates a Drop-Off Station for the Martin and Martin Livestock Market. Mr. Brooks is a member of the Crescent Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.



Eric Benton of Jefferson, SC received the Outstanding Agribusiness Award by the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. Benton, a graduate of Clemson University with a BS in Agricultural Mechanization and Business, is president of Southeast Tractor Parts and is past president of the National Tractor Parts Dealers Association. He is a member of the Central Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.



Panelist for the Agricultural Issues Seminar at the Association Conference are (left to right) Dr. Laurie Lawson, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture at Clemson University; State Rep. Billy Witherspoon, Chairman House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; Senator Robert Waldrep, Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; David Winkles, President SC Farm Bureau Federation; Walter Douglas, State Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Charles R. Sharpe, State Commissioner of Agriculture.



The Darlington County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter hosted an Agricultural Issues Seminar at Lamar High School. Shown (left to right seated) are Jack Shuler, President, Pee Dee Farm Credit Association; Rep. Marty Coates; Sen. Gerald Malloy; Rep. Jay Lucas; and (standing, left to right) Rep. Denny Neilson; Don Boice, Pee Dee Farm Credit Association who coordinated the event; Les Galloway, State President, SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association; Rep. Billy Witherspoon, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; State Commissioner of Agriculture Charles R. Sharpe; and Rep. Jesse Hines. Anne Warr (not pictured), chairperson of the Darlington County Council, welcomed the standing-room only crowd.

Crescent And West Oak FFA Soil Judging Teams To Compete Nationally

The Crescent High School FFA Soil Judging Team took top honors in the state competition and will represent South Carolina in the National Finals in Oklahoma this spring. Joining them will be the State Runner-Up Team from West Oak High School FFA Chapter. The State FFA Soil Judging Competition is co-sponsored by Duke Energy, SCANA, Inc., Progress Energy and the SC Conservation Districts Foundation. Technical assistance is provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. State Agricultural Education Administrative staff coordinate the event with assistance from agricultural education teachers and the Clemson Collegiate FFA Organization.



David Nixon (left front), Crescent Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA Advisor, with team members Russell Hendrix and Justin Wilson who was the high individual scorer in the competition and won an expense-paid trip to the 2003 National FFA Convention; and Marc Connelly with Duke Energy, Spartanburg, SC. At top left is Mike Haynes, State FFA President; and other team members Joe Zappitella and Alex Smith.



Marc Connelly (left front), Duke Power Company; with Team members Justin Laws and Michael Lyle; and Stanley Gibson, Team Advisor. Team members Travis Bryant (top left) and Josh McGuffin; with Joe Gregory, Progress Energy.



The Abbeville Conservation District awards an expense-paid trip annually to the National FFA Convention. FFA member who is the High Individual Scorer in the local FFA Soil Judging Competition wins the trip. Shown (left to right) is Calvert Sherard, FFA Advisor at Calhoun Falls High School, with Alex Gleason, President of the Calhoun Falls Chapter and trip winner in 2000; Savannah Cann, Abbeville High School FFA member who won in 2001; Clint Burden, a Calhoun Falls FFA member who won in 2002; and Fred Raines, FFA Advisor at Abbeville High School.

National FFA Convention



Bill Stagg (second from left), Director of Communications with the National FFA Organization, welcomes Kyle Hatcher (left); Ken Jameson, and Michael Martin, members of the Clemson Collegiate FFA Organization, to the National FFA Convention Press Suite. They assisted with the media coverage of the South Carolina FFA group at the National Convention.



Clemson University Collegiate FFA members Matt Rollins (left), Garret Howard and Ricky Varnadoe, observe one of the large tractors at the National FFA Convention Career Show.

Walhalla FFA Chapter Receives Major Media Coverage

The Walhalla High School FFA Chapter-sponsored Truck and Tractor Show received major media coverage, including a one and one-half hour on-site live broadcast by Radio Station WGOG in Walhalla, SC, and on-site coverage by WYFF-TV News Channel in Greenville, SC, which reaches portions of three states.

The TV station interviewed Steve Morrison, Agricultural

Education Teacher and FFA Advisor, along with FFA members. State FFA Secretary Christopher Moss was interviewed by the radio station news staff and provided them with public service announcements on the 75th anniversary of the FFA. The radio station has used the announcements extensively, according to Moss.



FFA MEMBERS TAKE TOP AWARDS IN SC FARM BUREAU COMPETITION

Rachel Jarrard (left), a Crescent High School FFA member, was awarded a \$1000 college scholarship for being named Miss South Carolina Farm Bureau for 2003. First and second runner-ups were Renee Turner, president of the Florence Career Center FFA Chapter and Ashley Granata, a member of the B.J. Skelton Career Center Chapter and past State FFA Vice President.

Photo courtesy of SC Farm Bureau



THE CHEROKEE TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND BLACKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL FFA Chapter sponsored the annual Cherokee County Children's Home Christmas Party.

The program included an invocation by a minister, reading of the Christmas Story by an FFA officer, and dinner. Santa Claus greeted the children and distributed presents. FFA members (left to right standing) Heather Allen, Chase Crawford, and Lauren Motts. Michelle Thomas (seated). FFA members raised money (supplemented by civic clubs and individuals), to make the party a reality. FFA Advisors: Bob Lail - Cherokee Technology Center and William Parker - Blacksburg High School.



BRANCHVILLE FFA CHAPTER AWARDED PALMETTO PRIDE ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT:

FFA members Phillip Freeman and Lawanda West (in FFA jackets) and Patrick Black, FFA Advisor at Branchville (left in back), were awarded a \$3500 grant from South Carolina's Palmetto Pride Organization. Rebecca Barnes, (left), Executive Director of Palmetto Pride; State Supt. of Education Inez Tenenbaum; Dr. Sandra Tonnsen, Supt. of Orangeburg District Four; and Mrs. Rita Allison, Education Assistant to Governor Mark Sanford at the Capital City Club.



EDISTO HIGH SCHOOL FFA members participated in a program entitled "Youth Cooperative Learning" conducted by SC State University and funded by the USDA Rural Development Agency. Students who won the essay and poster contests received \$2000. Debbie Turbeville (left), Cooperative Development Specialist, USDA Rural Development Agency; and Dr. Emanuel Onunkwo, Co-Director of the Center, with Barry Hawkins, Agricultural Education Teacher who was presented a plaque for his outstanding cooperation; and Dr. Suresh Londhe, Co-Director of the Center.



CRESTWOOD FFA Sweetheart Courtney Blair was named the Homecoming Queen for 2002-03 at Crestwood High School.

I Want To Be An Agricultural Education Teacher

One that reminds you of your big brother or sister or a favorite aunt or uncle.

A teacher who likes people and is not afraid to laugh with you and enjoy your company.

One who comes to school early because they like being there and stays until all students "get it" just because they want to help you.

A teacher who doesn't make you do anything, but for whom you do everything because it makes you feel good.

A teacher who is almost always happy, especially when you are, and yet knows that everyone has bad days and is able to adjust and work with you on those days.

A teacher who knows that a field trip, demonstration or student activity helps almost everyone and doesn't forget those who aren't so quick when it comes to book learning.

A teacher who remembers things, your birthday or something special that happens to you in or out of school.

One who stops to talk to you in the hall at school or in the street and makes a visit to your home or work at important times, and sometimes just because they like you. A teacher who knows what is going on in the school or in the community where you live.

Who talks to you like an adult because he considers you to be a young person growing up—an equal.



Jeriah Cooper, President of the Hillcrest FFA Chapter, talks with his Agricultural Education Teacher Clark Woods. Jeriah plans to be an agricultural teacher.

A teacher who learns from students everyday.

One who welcomes questions even if they can't answer them, but promises to look up the answer, and remembers to do just that.

A teacher who remembers that your name is Andrew but that you like to be called Andy even though the class has only met twice.

One who brings doughnuts or candy to class on special occasions and knows that the refreshments are an important part of a good FFA meeting.

A teacher who teaches adults and talks to your dad or mother about how important you are to the Ag program.

One who isn't afraid to visit you after school and even get his or her shoes dirty, but doesn't care because mud is a part of agriculture, too!

One who draws pictures on the chalkboard and they aren't as good as yours.

Someone who maybe can't write as well as some folks but gets the ideas across and everyone understands.

One who tells you that you didn't do very well on this test but he/she hopes you'll do better next time and deep inside, you really want to.

One who is always around when you need someone—and even sometimes when you don't.

A teacher who knows when you are absent and comes to see you when you are sick or in the hospital.

One who tells you he/she will miss you when school is out and really means it, and one who writes or telephones to see how you are doing after you graduate.

A teacher who knows what it is like to be young and wouldn't have it any other way.

Written in 1984 by James Clouse, Professor Emeritus Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Revised in 2003 with permission from the author by P.M. Fravel, Agricultural Education faculty, Clemson University

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